

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 SP-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-07

RSC-01 CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 COME-00 PRS-01 /107 R

DRAFTED BY ARA:JBKUBISCH:CJS

APPROVED BY RA:JBKUBISCH

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P 120031Z JUL 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 150571

TAGS: , AR

SUBJECT: KUBISCH DISCUSSION WITH UNDER SECRETARY VARTALITIS
RE COUNTERVAILING DUTIES

1. ON JULY 10 ASSISTANT SECRETARY KUBISCH HOSTED A SMALL WORKING LUNCH FOR ARGENTINE UNDER SECRETARY VARTALITIS. ARGENTINE EMBASSY DCM SUBIZA AND PHILIP FAUCETT ALSO PRESENT. PURPOSE WAS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON A FRANK, INFORMAL BASIS AND SEEK TO FIND SOME MEANS OF AVERTING PROBLEMS DERIVING FROM ARGENTINE FOOTWEAR EXPORTS TO THE U.S.

2. A WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE IN WHICH POSITIONS OF INTERESTED PARTIES WERE EXPLAINED AND EXPLORED. WHILE VARTALITIS SAID HE WAS NOT EMPOWERED TO ENTER INTO ANY NEGOTIATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT HE WOULD RETURN TO BUENOS AIRES WITH A MUCH CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF THE U.S. POSITION AND WHAT WAS INVOLVED. HE SAID HE HOPED AS A RESULT THAT GOA WOULD BE WILLING TO HAVE FULL AND FORTHCOMING CONSULTATIONS WITH USG OFFICIALS ON THIS SUBJECT, BUT THAT HE COULD MAKE NO GUARANTEES.

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3. VARTALITIS PREDICTED SHARP AND ADVERSE REPERCUSSIONS

IN ARGENTINA IF THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT PROCEEDED WITH PUBLICATION OF THE COUNTERVAILING DUTY INVESTIGATION.

HE ASKED THAT KUBISCH AND DEPARTMENT DO ALL POSSIBLE TO DELAY SUCH AN ANNOUNCEMENT. KUBISCH SAID THAT STATE AND TREASURY DEPARTMENTS WERE IN CLOSEST CONSULTATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT AND THAT HE UNDERSTOOD NO FURTHER DELAY IN TREASURY ANNOUNCEMENT WAS POSSIBLE. HOWEVER, HE SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO MATTER ONCE AGAIN BUT, IN ANY CASE, POINTED OUT THAT ANTICIPATED ANNOUNCEMENT MERELY INITIATED INVESTIGATION AND THAT CLOSE CONSULTATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WAS STILL POSSIBLE AND, INDEED, HIGHLY DESIRABLE EVEN AFTER THE ANNOUNCEMENT. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, COUNTERVAILING DUTIES, SHOES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: martinml
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE150571
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JBKUBISCH:CJS
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740185-1193
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740753/aaaabtcp.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinml
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 SEP 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2003 by martinml>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KUBISCH DISCUSSION WITH UNDER SECRETARY VARTALITIS RE COUNTERVAILING DUTIES
TAGS: ETRD, PFOR, AR, US, (KUBISCH, JACK B), (VARTALITIS)
To: BUENOS AIRES
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005